



County of Los Angeles
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March 9, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

Pursuit of Position on Water Resources Development Act Reauthorization

Later this month, the House and Senate are expected to begin consideration of a measure to reauthorize the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which would authorize funding for the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to conduct water resource studies and carry out specified projects and programs, such as navigation improvement, flood control, watershed management, stream bank modification, shoreline protection, and environmental enhancements. Congress last reauthorized WRDA in 2000, and attempts to pass reauthorization bills since then have been unsuccessful.

During the previous Congress, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works each approved legislation (H.R. 2864/S. 728) to reauthorize WRDA. However, due to concerns by the Administration regarding the total cost of the legislation, further action did not occur.

As reported in the July 28, 2006 Washington D.C. Update, the Senate bill included an authorization for the Corps to conduct a study for bank stabilization and shore protection for Nicholas Canyon Bluffs and the House bill contained studies for improvements to

Ballona Lagoon Tide Gates and Dockweiler Bluffs, which were projects requested by the Department of Beaches and Harbors. The Senate bill also contained a \$12 million WRDA authorization requested by the City of Los Angeles for the Corps to conduct a feasibility study, in coordination with the City, to revitalize the Los Angeles River. The feasibility study would explore opportunities for environmental ecosystem restoration, flood control, and recreation in a manner that is consistent with the City's Los Angeles River Master Plan.

The Department of Public Works identified important technical issues related to maintenance and liability that were not addressed in separate legislation, S. 2667 (Boxer) and H.R. 5244 (Roybal-Allard) authorizing appropriations for the Corps relating to the revitalization of the Los Angeles River. Representative Roybal-Allard submitted an abbreviated version of H.R. 5244 to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for consideration. Other than including a reference to the County-adopted Los Angeles River Master Plan that was not included in H.R. 5244, the language in the S. 728 is silent on these technical issues. However, the Corps' Southern California District Commander, in meetings the County's Washington staff, stated that demonstration projects in the river channels could not proceed without a signed multi-party Project Cooperation Agreement that detailed liability and maintenance issues. Staff for Senator Boxer, who chairs the Environment and Public Works Committee, also confirmed the Corps' policy and added that WRDA was not an appropriate legislative vehicle for technical language sought by the County.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee recently contacted all members of the House of Representatives asking that a list of WRDA project requests be submitted to the Committee by March 1, 2007. The County submitted a request for the inclusion of an authorization for the Beach Nourishment and Beach Protection projects to Representatives Waxman and Harman, who represent the areas where the projects are located. These two project categories, which amount to \$83 million, were identified by the Department of Beaches and Harbors, in coordination with your offices, for consideration in legislation to reauthorize WRDA in 2007. The attachment includes a list of the proposed individual projects and the estimated amount of funding required for completion.

Support for these projects is consistent with existing policy to support "proposals which provide funding to state and local governments for environmental protection and restoration of watersheds, shorelines, and wetlands, land acquisition, open space, and improvements to parks, beaches, and other recreational areas" and "funding for

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developing and implementing coastal management plans, including beach stabilization and replenishment projects". Our Washington, D.C. advocates are pursuing the inclusion of an authorization for these projects through the WRDA reauthorization bill or similar legislation.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:LY:hg

Attachment

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
WRDA REAUTHORIZATION REQUEST**

Beach Nourishment and Beach Erosion Protection: \$83 million

Project Category: Beach Nourishment

Project Name/Beach Area	Preliminary Cost Estimate
Nicholas Canyon County Beach	\$2,700,000
Zuma County Beach	\$7,150,000
Point Dume County Beach	\$2,600,000
Dan Blocker County Beach	\$3,510,000
Malibu Lagoon County Beach	\$8,100,000
Topanga County Beach	\$5,720,000
Will Rogers State Beach	\$7,860,000
Venice City Beach	\$2,800,000
Dockweiler State Beach	\$8,250,000
Redondo County Beach	\$5,040,000
Redondo County Beach/Torrance County Beach	\$7,800,000
Sub-total	\$61,530,000

Project Category: Beach Erosion Protection

Project Name/Beach Area	Preliminary Cost Estimate
Nicholas Canyon County Beach	\$1,012,500
Zuma County Beach	\$1,170,000
Dan Blocker County Beach	\$1,012,500
Malibu Lagoon County Beach	\$1,215,000
Topanga County Beach	\$2,080,000
Will Rogers State Beach	\$2,806,000
Venice City Beach	\$1,820,000
Dockweiler State Beach	\$7,625,000
Redondo County Beach	\$2,520,000
Sub-total	\$21,261,000